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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 890

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to express the sorrow of the General Assembly at the death of our colleague, Representative Keith Westmoreland.

WHEREAS, it was with great shock and sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the untimely death of our trusted and valued colleague, Representative Keith Westmoreland of Kingsport; and

WHEREAS, Representative Westmoreland was a dedicated and proficient public servant who represented the good people of the 2nd House District with the utmost acumen as a member of the 98th through the 102nd General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who had earned the universal respect of both his colleagues and everyone involved in the legislative process, Representative Westmoreland bypassed the gridlock of partisan politics and worked alongside members of both parties to make Tennessee a better place to live and work; and

WHEREAS, he was a respected member of the House Government Operations Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, and served with probity and integrity as the Assistant Republican Floor Leader during the 98th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Representative Westmoreland graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy, and contributed his time and expertise as co-author of a plan to upgrade law enforcement in the First Tennessee Region; and

WHEREAS, a Kingsport native and veteran of the United States Air Force, he graduated *cum laude* from East Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, and utilized this degree throughout a distinguished career in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, he served with honor and distinction as the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy from 1976-86; he also ably utilized his many talents as Sullivan County Executive from 1986-90, and had served as the Vice President of the Tennessee County Executives Association; and

WHEREAS, Keith was a highly respected member of the Fraternal Order of Police, the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association, and rendered meritorious service as a member of the Kingsport Regional Education Alliance 2000 Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, he was named "Legislator of the Year" by the Tennessee Development District Association in 1994, "Outstanding Legislator" by the Tennessee Forestry Association in 1994, and also in that same year received the Human Resource Agencies Award of Merit; and

WHEREAS, Representative Westmoreland is survived by his wife, Alice; their two sons, Joel and Stoney; his brothers, Dennis and Dan; his sister, Pat; and his many other family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Keith Westmoreland was truly a man of the people; he was as friendly to, and respectful of, his constituents and legislative staff as he was of his colleagues, and his commitment to the health and prosperity of his fellow citizens will be sorely missed; and

WHEREAS, as we reflect upon Keith Westmoreland's death, we are saddened by the loss we have experienced both personally and professionally as he represented the epitome of the devoted public servant and true friend; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of our colleague, Representative Keith Westmoreland, remembering his indelible legacy of astute public service and his stalwart commitment to the citizens of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our condolences to Representative Westmoreland's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.